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FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 7160 SENT ACTION SECSTATE SEPT 22:

QUOTE

UNCLAS MEXICO 7160

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TAGS: EGEN, SPOP, MX

SUBJECT: NEW GENERAL LAW ON POPULATION SUBMITTED TO MEXICAN
CONGRESS

REF: MEXICO A-471, SEPTEMBER 13, 1973

1. GOM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, AS PROMISED IN HIS INFORME ON
SEPTEMBER 1, 1973 (SEE REF), SENT THE DRAFT OF NEW GENERAL
LAW ON POPULATION TO THE MEXICAN CONGRESS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1973.
HIS ACCOMPANYING MESSAGE REITERATED DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS,
SAYING ADDITIONALLY "IT IS NECESSARY TO REDESIGN AND ACCELERATE
OUR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, INCORPORATING AN AUTHENTIC DEMOGRAPHIC
POLICY THAT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SIZE, STRUCTURE, DYNAMICS
AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE FAMILY
PLANNING." THE PROPOSED LAW ALSO INCLUDES LENGTHY SECTIONS
RELATED TO INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MIGRATION, THE ESTABLISHMENT
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OF A POPULATION REGISTRY AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS,

AND RELATED PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS. COPY OF DRAFT BEING FORWARDED TO ARA/MEX.

2. ONLY THE FIRST OF SEVEN CHAPTERS (CONTAINING THE FIRST SIX OF A TOTAL OF 123 ARTICLES) OF THE PROPOSED LAW CONCERNS GOM FAMILY PLANNING POLICY. THE MINISTRY OF GOBERNACION (INTERIOR) IS ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOM ACTIONS TO RESOLVE NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS. A NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF RELEVANT GOM MINISTRIES AND CHAIRED BY GOVERNACION IS PROPOSED TO ASSURE COORDINATED ACTIVITIES. SPECIFICS FOLLOW.

3. ARTICLE ONE STATES THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED LAW AS REGULATING POPULATION TO ASSURE A JUST DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS. ARTICLE TWO FIXES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIRECTION, PROMOTION, AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY WITH GOBERNACION.

4. ARTICLE THREE SPELLS OUT THIRTEEN SPECIFIC GOM ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH GOBERNACION HAS DIRECTIONAL AND IMPLEMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY (OR, WHERE APPROPRIATE, FOR ENSURING IMPLEMENTATION BY OTHER PARTS OF THE GOM). AMONG THESE ARE: (A) RELATING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO THE SIZE, STRUCTURE, DYNAMICS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION; (B) IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, AND ASSURING THAT BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS ARE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH "INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND PRESERVATION OF FAMILY DIGNITY, IN ORDER TO RATIONALLY REGULATE AND STABILIZE POPULATION GROWTH AS WELL AS TO ACHIEVE A BETTER USE OF NATIONAL HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES"; AND (C) INFLUENCING POPULATION DYNAMICS THROUGH EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING, AND INFANT CARE, AND OBTAINING THE PARTICIPATION OF THOSE CONCERNED IN RESOLVING THESE PROBLEMS.

5. ARTICLE FOUR REAFFIRMS THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF ARTICLE THREE MAY BE CARRIED OUT BY DIFFERENT BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAW, BUT THAT THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNACION ALONE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR JOINT PROJECTS, PROGRAM COORDINATION, AND DEFINITION OF STANDARDS.

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6. THE FIFTH AND SIXTH ARTICLES WOULD CREATE A NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL CHAIRED BY A REPRESENTATIVE FROM GOBERNACION, WITH FURTHER REPRESENTATION FROM THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, TREASURY, LABOR, THE PRESIDENCY AND AGRICULTURE. THE COUNCIL WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC PLANNING, AND WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS APPROPRIATE. IT WOULD ALSO DRAW ON THE SERVICES OF TECHNICAL

CONSULTANTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC SPECIALISTS.

7. THE PROPOSED LAW WOULD ABROGATE THE GENERAL LAW ON POPULATION OF DECEMBER 23, 1946, AS AMENDED, AND THE CONFLICTING SECTIONS OF THE GENERAL LAW ON POPULATION OF APRIL 27, 1962. OTHER SECTIONS OF THE PROPOSED LAW WILL BE REPORTED ON SEPARATELY. DEAN

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